THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steering Group has, among others, recommended for creation of opportunities for the self employment of rural youth by helping them to set up their own agri-enterprises/agri-ventures or by providing them land based employement opportunities and to provide credit facilities through commercial institutions. Besides, the Steering Group has also recommended for taking policy measures to ensure unrestricted movement of agri-commodities, rural roads and godowns, encouraging live stock enterprises, agro-forestry, tree farming, freedom for cutting/logging all tree species grown on farmers' land to attract rural educated youth to set up agri-business centres/enterprises.

(c) The Streering group has also recommended for waste land development using Sampooran Gramin Rozgar Yojana. It has suggested that all the Waste Land under public ownership could be allotted to the landless/poor households for development in viable units of 2 ha. each. The participant families should be supported by the Central and State Governments in terms of loans and subsidy facilities and technical help. A credit link subsidy programme could be chalked out for assisting the participants to help develop the allotted land and utilizing for agricultural activities of their choice, like crop raising, horticulture, agro-forestry, dairying, fisheries, etc., provided 50% of the land is put under useful tree cover appropriate to the eco-system. The Steering Group has also observed that the scarcity of water in rain-fed areas is causing serious hardwhip, the availability of water is declining at the national level and has suggested that effective ground water recharging measures as also regulations for sustainable exploitation needs to be put in place on urgent basis.

(d) The Steering Group on Agriculture and Allied Sectors was constituted for the formulation of the X Five Year Plan and the Plan is yet to start. The Report of the Steering Group has been circulated to all the concerned nodal Central Departments/Ministries and also to all States and UTs for consideration.

Assistance to drought affected States

168. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to States affected by severe drought in the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for

financial assistance to contain severe drought situation in the State in 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to release any amount to the State, apart from State's entitled CRF; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A statement indicating State-wise details of financial assistance provided to States affected by drought in the years 2000-01 and 2001-2002, is given below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Request of the Government of Karnataka for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was considered in the meeting of the High Level Committee held on 5th September, 2001. However, keeping in view the balance available with the State Government in their Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account, the High Level Committee had recommended that, to begin with, funds from CRF of the State be utilized. The State Government was accordingly informed.

Statement

Release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund and Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund to the drought affected States during 2000-01 & 2001-02.

(*Rs. in Crore*)

S. No.	State	Central Share of CRF Released 2000-01	2001-02	Assistance Released from NCCF
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	148.54	196.91	-
2.	Bihar	50.22	26.37	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	20.60	21.63	58.94
4.	Gujarat	131.14	117.01	112.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	32.61	34.24	18.98

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.18	-	23.20
7.	Karnataka	55.93	58.72	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	46.98	49.32	57.72
9.	Maharashtra	117.90	123.80	-
10.	Orissa	103.65	64.66	49.62
11.	Rajasthan	196.00	122.26	163.97
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7.10	29.93	-

Rehabilitation package for cooperative credit structure

169. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken an initiative to finalize a rehabilitation package for revamping the credit cooperative structure; if so, the details of the package;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has recommended any proposal under this package for consideration of Government; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India constituted a Task Force also known as "Capoor Committee" to suggest measures for strengthening of the Cooperative Credit Structure. The Task Force has recommended for a rehabilitation package consisting of financial, operational, organizational systemic measures.

(b) Yes, Sir. A proposal amounting to Rs. 742.60 crores for rehabilitating the Cooperative Credit Structure in Karnataka was received.

(c) To operationalise the rehabilitation package as suggested by the Capoor Committee, the Government of India has constituted a Joint Committee of Cooperation Ministers of select States under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Finance.